



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ
Parish President

Hurricane Preparedness Items State Tax Free This Weekend

**Contact: Lester Kenyon (225) 621-5753; E-mail: lkenyon@apgov.us
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GONZALES – State and local officials announced the 2012 Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday will take place on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27.

“If parish residents haven’t stocked up already on necessary emergency related items, because of the tax exemption and the lower total prices, the time to act is now,” said Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez.

Storm preparedness-related items including flashlights, batteries, generators and others will be free of the 4 percent sales tax, according to officials with the state Department of Revenue. The state tax-free holiday weekend is coinciding with the upcoming start of the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season which begins June 1.

“This is the perfect opportunity to begin the preparations that can help to keep your loved ones and property safe, secure and comfortable during hurricane season,” Secretary of Revenue Cynthia Bridges said in a department news release. “I encourage everyone to get ready now. Don’t wait until there’s a storm bearing down on us or, worse, after one has already struck.”

Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director Rick Webre said parish residents need to take advantage of the lower total price on items that will be exempt on the first \$1,500 of the purchase price.

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“We encourage our residents to participate in the tax exemption weekend this hurricane season,” Webre said. “Now is the time to prepare in getting the supplies that families will need should that need arise.”

Other items that will be state tax exempt include: self-powered light sources, such as flashlights and candles; portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, and weather-band radios; tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting; ground anchor systems, straps or tie-down kits; gas or diesel fuel tanks; batteries, sizes AAA, AA, C, D, 6-volt, or 9-volt (automobile batteries and boat batteries are ineligible); cellular phone batteries and chargers; non-electric food storage coolers; portable generators; storm shutter devices (materials and products manufactured, rated, and marketed specifically for the purposes of preventing window damage from storms); carbon monoxide detectors; “Blue Ice” (and similar re-usable cooling products).

According to the state Department of Revenue, the 2012 Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday exempts eligible purchases from the 4 percent state sales tax only. Local sales taxes apply unless specifically exempted by the local taxing jurisdiction.

Visit www.revenue.louisiana.gov/hurricaneprep for a full explanation of sales tax holiday provision at the bottom of the form.

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